

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 /021 R

DRAFTED BY DRAFTED:E/J:DFLAMBERTSON:BCL

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LIMDIS S/S PASS UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN BILATERAL-MIG 25

REF: TOKYO 14515 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING EXCERPT OF REFTEL IS REPEATED FOR YOUR
INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
KOSAKA TOMORROW MORNING:

2. QUOTE: IN SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING WITH EMBOFF, FONOFF
SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF SATO EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS
VIRTUALLY NO PROSPECT FOR EXTENSION OF CURRENT USFJ OVERT
ACCESS TO MIG BEYOND OCTOBER 3 DEADLINE. HE SAID PRIME
MINISTER HAD RELUCTANTLY APPROVED EXTENSION BUT WAS ANXIOUS
TO CONCLUDE MIG EXAMINATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SATO SAID,
HOWEVER, THAT AFTER OCTOBER 3 JSDF COULD PROVIDE COMPONENTS
FOR USFJ EXAMINATION ELSEWHERE ON COVERT BASIS AND THAT
JSDF MIGHT AT SOME LATER STAGE REQUEST USFJ OVERT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO PREPARE MIG FOR RETURN TO SOVIETS. JDA VICE
MINISTER MARUYAMA CONFIRMED THESE POINTS IN SUBSEQUENT

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MEETING WITH DCM AND POL/C. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO US SATO IS TRYING TO EMPHASIZE THAT WHILE QUESTION OF PROLONGING US OVERT ACCESS TO MIG CANNOT BE REOPENED, GOJ WILL MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO PERMIT CONTINUED US EXAMINATION ON A COVERT BASIS, AND WITH NECESSARILY SHIFTING GROUND RULES. THIS IS NOT AS GOOD, FROM TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, AS PRESENT ARRANGEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS BETTER THAN BEING COMPLETELY SHUT OFF. REFTEL GOES ON TO CITE PRONOUNCED SHIFT IN JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOR OF RETURNING THE PLANE SOON AND, AS YOU ARE AWARE, SOVIET PRESSURES FOR IMMEDIATE RETURN CONTINUE STRONG. GOJ FEELS IT MUST ACCOMMODATE ITSELF SOMEWHAT TO THESE POLITICAL REALITIES.

4. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY'S APPROACH TO KOSAKA ON THIS ISSUE BE MODIFIED SLIGHTLY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SATO'S REMARKS. SPECIFICALLY, WE SUGGEST THAT IN ADDITION TO ASKING THAT OCTOBER 3 DEADLINE BE EXTENDED, THE SECRETARY ALSO URGE GOJ, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, TO ARRANGE FOR CONTINUED COVERT ACCESS TO COMPONENTS AS WELL AS RESUMPTION OF OVERT ACCESS WHEN PLANE IS READIED FOR RETURN. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE241144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: E/J:DFLAMBERTSON:BCL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-0236
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760910/aaaaaitk.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: 76 TOKYO 14515
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-JAPAN BILATERAL-MIG 25
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PDIP, JA, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (KOSAKA)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006